I'M GOING TO TELL HIM TODAY.
...IT'S REALLY NOT THAT SUDDEN, IS IT?
She's been mulling over this for a while
Huh?
WHY ALL OF A SUDDEN?!
ガタ
...WILL YOU MAKE IT UNTIL THEN?
I'M NOT SURE...
AFTER SCHOOL, THEN?
YEAH...

STEP.30

TSP tsundere services #tsp@irch ghway
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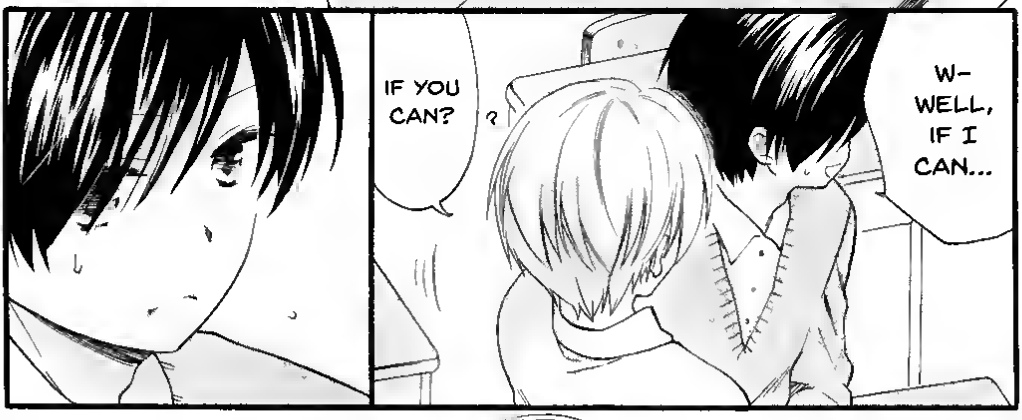
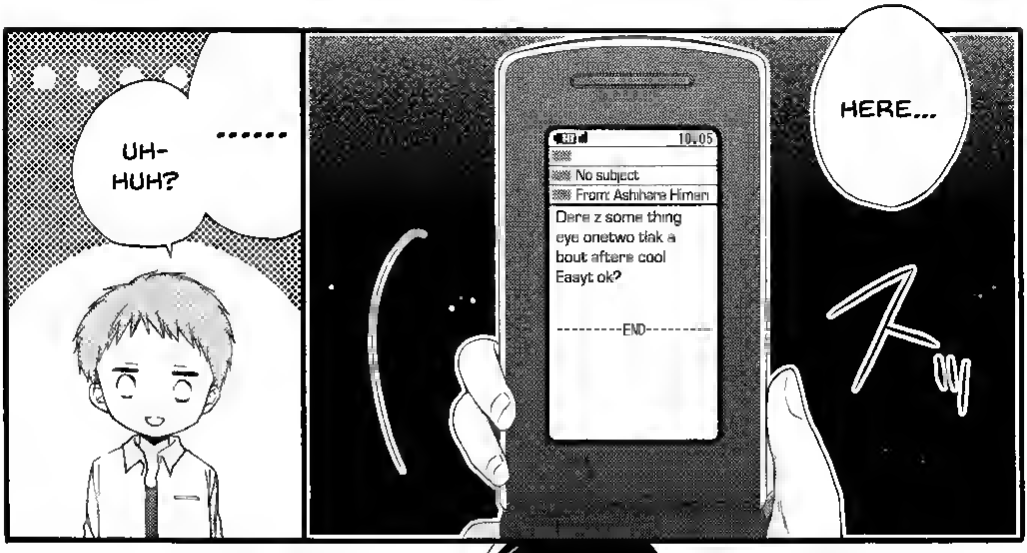
Love will be in the air!
I'M PRETTY EXCITED ABOUT THIS!
YOU'RE INVITING HIMARIN, RIGHT, KAI?
HUH?
キーン コーン
HERE ARE THE TICKETS FOR THE FES-TIVAL.
FEEL FREE TO INVITE OTH-ERS.


W-WELL, IF I CAN...
IF YOU CAN?

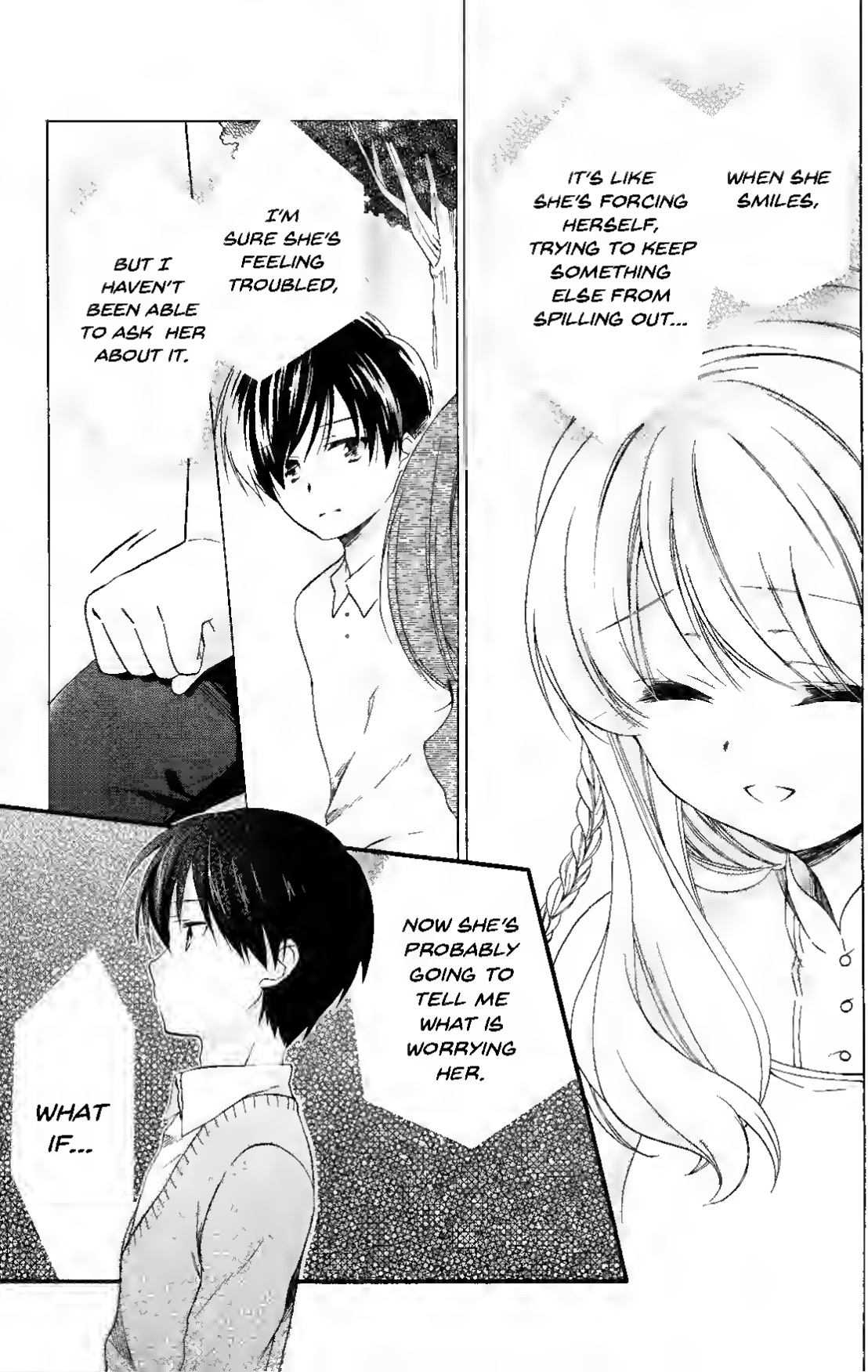
...I GOT A TEXT FROM HIMARI-SAN EARLIER.


UH-HUH?
.....
10:05
No subject
From: Ashihara Himari
Dere z some thing eye onetwo tiak a bout aftere cool Easyt ok?
---------END---------
HERE...

RIGHT! OF COURSE THAT'S WHAT IT SAID!!
Ah
Uh-huh!
"THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO TALK ABOUT AFTER SCHOOL. IS IT OKAY?" SHE SAID.

LATELY...

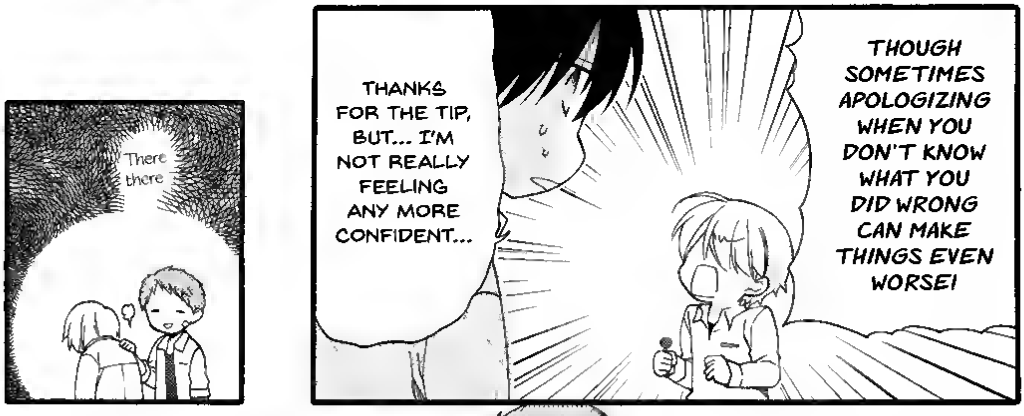
IF SHE JUST WANTS TO TALK, WHY CAN'T YOU INVITE HER?

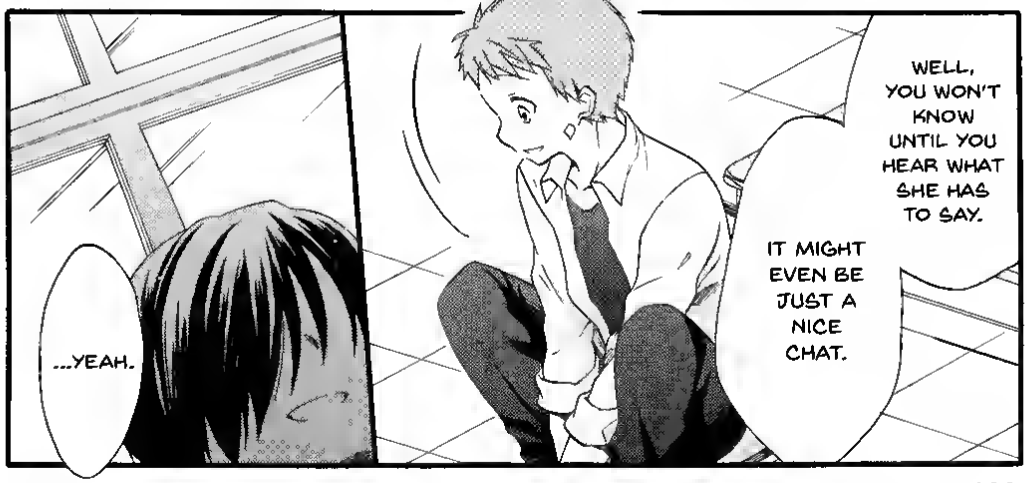

WHEN SHE SMILES,
IT'S LIKE SHE'S FORCING HERSELF, TRYING TO KEEP SOMETHING ELSE FROM SPILLING OUT...
I'M SURE SHE'S FEELING TROUBLED,
BUT I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO ASK HER ABOUT IT.
NOW SHE'S PROBABLY GOING TO TELL ME WHAT IS WORRYING HER.
WHAT IF...

EEEEH?!
SHE WANTS TO BREAK UP WITH ME?!
SHE-
W-
WHY, DID YOU DO SOME-THING?! SPEAK UP, KAI!
NO...
I didn't
WAIT!! WHAT IF...

WHEN WE WERE AT THE AMUSEMENT PARK, I WAS SUCH A MESS THAT IT EMBARRASSED HER...
No waaay
I can't believe this guy
How lame
Nah
THE SAME THING HAPPENED THE FIRST TIME YOU WENT, SO IT CAN'T BE THAT.
You have a point
ANYWAY, YOU PROBABLY JUST MISUNDERSTOOD HER TEXT.
NO, I TRAINED VERY HARD AND CAN CORRECTLY INTERPRET 80% OF HIMARI-SAN'S MESSAGES!
THAT MEANS THERE'S STILL 20% THAT GOES OVER YOUR HEAD...
MAYBE I'M JUST SO DENSE THAT I UPSET HER WITHOUT REALIZING IT.
LISTEN UP, KAI.
WHEN YOU'RE AT FAULT...
TARGETED ADVICE BASED ON THE VETERAN OTOGI'S OWN EXPERIENCES?
I must take note of his every word!

IS THAT SOME-THING YOU HAVE TO STRIKE A POSE TO SAY?!
APOLOGIZE! JUST MAKE SURE YOU APOLOGIZE!!


There there
THANKS FOR THE TIP, BUT... I'M NOT REALLY FEELING ANY MORE CONFIDENT...
THOUGH SOMETIMES APOLOGIZING WHEN YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU DID WRONG CAN MAKE THINGS EVEN WORSE!


...YEAH.
IT MIGHT EVEN BE JUST A NICE CHAT.
WELL, YOU WON'T KNOW UNTIL YOU HEAR WHAT SHE HAS TO SAY.

THE FIRST STEP IS TO HEAR THE OTHER PERSON THROUGH, CAREFULLY.
THEN DO YOUR BEST TO TAKE IT ALL IN, BOTH WITH YOUR HEAD AND YOUR HEART.

?!
Will I get punched?!
...AND SUCK YOUR GUT IN, IF YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN.

...
I see! Given Himarin's height, your stomach's right in the strike zone!
KAI...
BUCK UP, BUDDY.

ANY-
HOW,
I NEED
TO CARE-
FULLY
LISTEN
TO WHAT
SHE HAS
TO SAY.
HIMARI
-SAN.
GULP

すん
じぃ…
…
…
じぃじぃじぃ…
…
…
…
ブロロロ

I'M SORRY!
I'LL LISTEN, BUT FIRST-
EH?!
I-I CAUSED YOU A LOT OF TROUBLE AT THE AMUSEMENT PARK...
I-
WHAT?!
Y-YOU DIDN'T CAUSE ME TROUBLE AT ALL!
Why bring up the park?!
THE ONE WHO SHOULD BE APOLOGIZING...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
IT'S NOTHING LIKE THAT!
THEN IS IT THAT I'M DENSE TO THE POINT OF BEING RUDE?

OH... IT DOESN'T SOUND LIKE SHE'S DUMPING ME...
But
I can't go out with you anymore, Satori-kun I'm sorry.
An apology could also lead to this!
!
IS ACTU-ALLY...
ME...
Uh...
EVEN THOUGH
I KNOW IT'S MY CUE TO SPEAK...

I CAN'T SAY A WORD NOW!
EVEN THOUGH I PRACTICED SO MUCH EARLIER...
Ah
Y-
YEAH.
THAT TAKOYAKI STALL IS CLOSED TODAY, HUH.

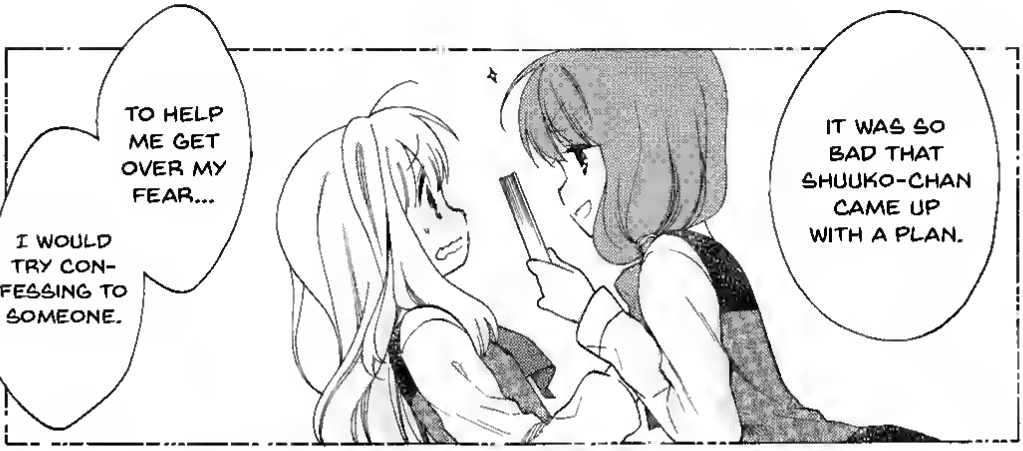
1
2
KIND OF NOSTALGIC, ISN'T IT?
IT'S BEEN...
LET'S SEE...
5
WOW, TIME SURE FLIES. IT'S BEEN 5 MONTHS SINCE WE STARTED GOING OUT.
ビク
...
NO.
HUH?

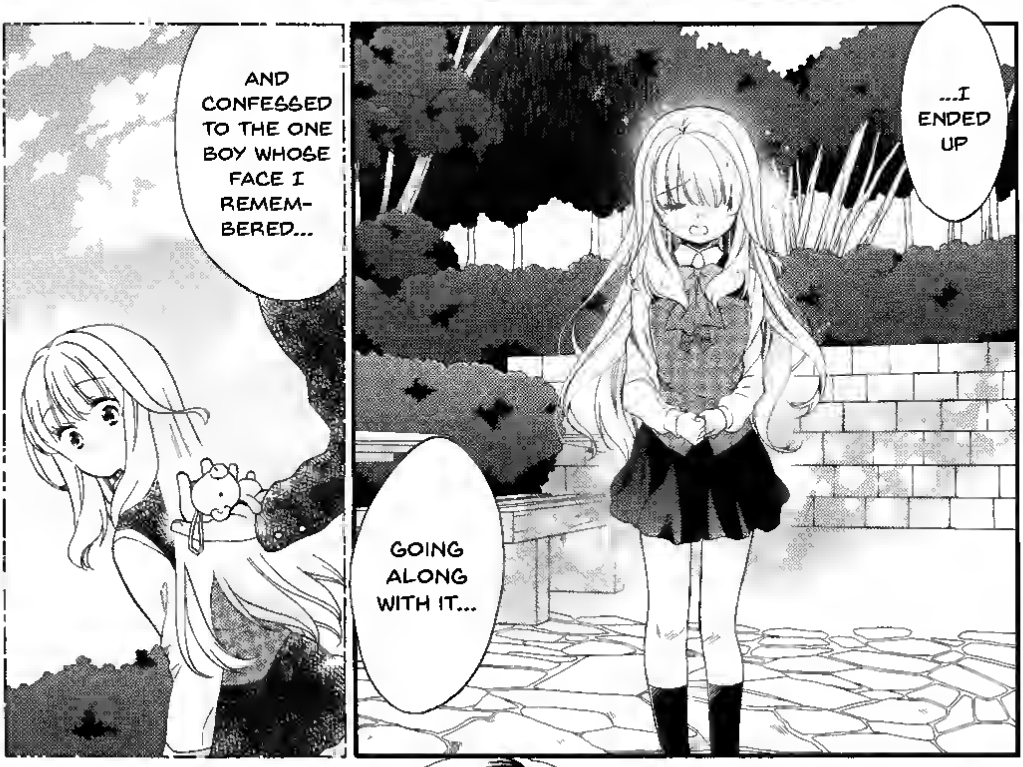
NOTHING EVER REALLY STARTED
TO BEGIN WITH.
UM...
AH, IT'S RAINING.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
LET'S FIND SOME-WHERE TO...
W-
WAIT!

I'M SORRY... PLEASE LISTEN...
OKAY.
I-
I'VE BEEN HIDING SOMETHING FROM YOU ALL ALONG.
EVEN THOUGH I KNEW I HAD TO TELL YOU... I COULD NEVER BRING MYSELF TO DO IT...

IT WAS ACTUALLY JUST A TEST OF COURAGE...
THE CONFESSION THAT DAY...

...B-BE-FORE,
I WAS *REALLY* REALLY UN-COMFORTABLE WITH GUYS- EVEN MORE THAN I AM NOW...
...EH?

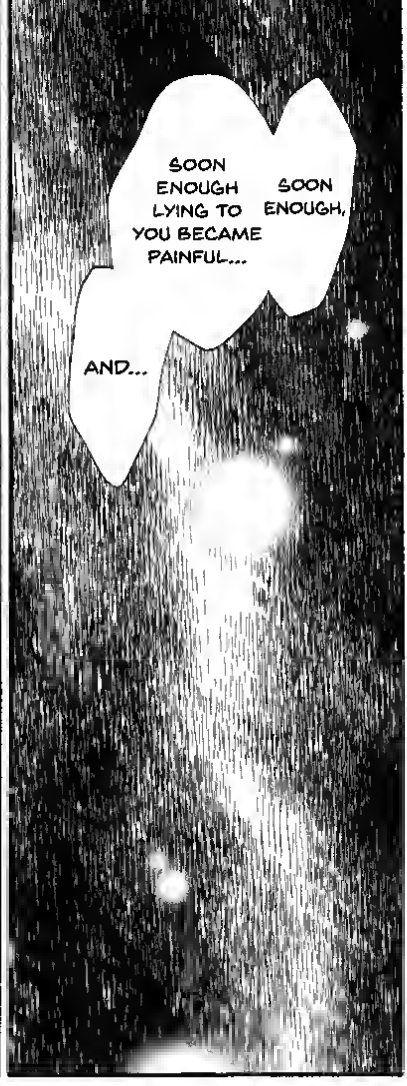

IT WAS SO BAD THAT SHUUKO-CHAN CAME UP WITH A PLAN.
TO HELP ME GET OVER MY FEAR...
I WOULD TRY CONFESSING TO SOMEONE.


...I ENDED UP
GOING ALONG WITH IT...
AND CONFESSED TO THE ONE BOY WHOSE FACE I REMEMBERED...

YOU, SATORU -KUN.

...
AT FIRST, IT REALLY WAS JUST SO I COULD GET USED TO GUYS...
BUT
YOU WERE SO NICE...
SUCH A...
SUCH A TRULY KIND PERSON...
NOT YET...
I CAN'T CRY YET!

EVEN-
TUALLY...
I
REAL-
LY...
Fell in love with you.
ぎゅ


SOON
ENOUGH
LYING TO
YOU BECAME
PAINFUL...
SOON
ENOUGH,
AND...

SATORU
-KUN...
THAT'S
NOT WHAT
I SHOULD
BE SAYING
RIGHT NOW.

I'M SO SORRY...
For waiting so long to tell you.
For pretending that we were going out until now.
For the fake confession.

Nod
and also for hurting you...
A TEST... OF COUR- AGE...
WE WEREN'T... ACTUALLY... GOING OUT?

Nod

SORRY.

...
I CAN...
CRY NOW, RIGHT?